

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO.
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	JUDGE
v.)	
)	
\$26,000.00 U.S. CURRENCY SEIZED)	
FROM MICHAEL LEWIS ON MAY 28,)	
2019, PURSUANT TO THE EXECUTION)	
OF A FEDERAL SEARCH WARRANT,)	
)	
2010 CADILLAC DTS, OHIO PLATE:)	
HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719,)	
SEIZED ON MAY 28, 2019, PURSUANT)	
TO THE EXECUTION OF A FEDERAL)	
SEARCH WARRANT,)	
)	
Defendants.)	COMPLAINT IN FORFEITURE

NOW COMES plaintiff, the United States of America, by Justin E. Herdman, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and James L. Morford, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and files this Complaint in Forfeiture, respectfully alleging as follows in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

JURISDICTION AND INTRODUCTION

1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over an action commenced by the United States under 28 U.S.C. Section 1345, and over an action for forfeiture under 28 U.S.C.

Section 1355(a). This Court also has jurisdiction over this particular action under 21 U.S.C. Section 881(a)(6) (currency) and 21 U.S.C. Section 881(a)(4) (vehicle).

2. This Court has *in rem* jurisdiction over the defendant properties under: (i) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1)(A) because acts giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in this district; and, (ii) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1)(B), incorporating 28 U.S.C. Section 1395, because the action accrued in this district and the defendant vehicle is found in this district.

3. This Court will have control over the defendant properties through service of arrest warrants *in rem*, which the United States Marshals Service will execute upon the defendant properties. *See*, Supplemental Rule G(3)(b) and G(3)(c).

4. Venue is proper in this district under: (i) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1)(A) because acts giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in this district; and, (ii) 28 U.S.C. Section 1395 because the action accrued in this district and the defendant vehicle is found in this district.

5. The defendant vehicle – a 2010 Cadillac DTS - is titled to Michael Lewis and is valued at approximately \$4,725.00. The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719, and the license plate number is: HRV8926 (Ohio).

6. On May 28, 2019, the defendant properties were seized at the Raccoon Drive NE, Warren, Ohio residence of Michael Lewis pursuant to the execution of a federal search warrant. The defendant properties are now in the custody of the federal government.

7. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) commenced an administrative forfeiture proceeding against the defendant properties. A claim to the defendant properties was submitted in the administrative forfeiture proceeding by Michael Lewis, thereby requiring the filing of this judicial forfeiture action.

8. The defendant \$26,000.00 U.S. Currency is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 21 U.S.C. Section 881(a)(6) in that it constitutes proceeds traceable to illegal drug trafficking activities, and/or was used or was intended to be used in exchange for illegal controlled substances, and/or was used or was intended to be used to facilitate illegal drug trafficking activities.

9. The defendant vehicle is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 21 U.S.C. Section 881(a)(4) in that: (i) it was used to transport a controlled substance (crack cocaine); and/or, (ii) it was used, in any manner, to facilitate the transportation, sale, receipt, possession, or concealment of a controlled substance (crack cocaine).

FORFEITURE

10. In the early spring of 2019, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG) identified Michael Lewis as a multi-ounce distributor of cocaine hydrochloride (HCL) and cocaine base (crack) operating in the Warren, Ohio and Sharon, Pennsylvania areas. Lewis resided at a location on Raccoon Drive NE in Warren, Ohio.

11. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Youngstown Resident Office, assisted the Pennsylvania OAG with its investigation of the illicit narcotics trafficking activities of Lewis.

12. Prior to April, 2019, Lewis had conducted narcotics transactions from his Raccoon Drive NE, Warren, Ohio residence.

13. During the spring of 2019, Lewis conducted a narcotics transaction from the defendant 2010 Cadillac DTS. Particularly, members of the DEA Youngstown Resident Office observed Lewis drive the defendant vehicle (Ohio license plate: HRV8926) from his Raccoon Drive NE residence to a location in the Warren/Sharon area. From the defendant vehicle, Lewis

sold in excess of approximately 10 grams of crack cocaine (lab analysis pending) to a drug customer for an amount of U.S. currency in excess of \$500.00.

14. Also during the spring of 2019 - in the Warren/Sharon area - Lewis sold approximately one ounce of crack cocaine (lab analysis pending) to a drug customer for an amount of U.S. currency in excess of \$1,000.00.

15. On May 28, 2019, members of the DEA Youngstown Resident Office established surveillance on Lewis' Raccoon Drive NE residence in anticipation of the execution of a federal search warrant.

16. Contemporaneously, with the execution of the search warrant - at approximately 8:00 p.m. - a uniformed Pennsylvania State Police trooper in a marked unit was able to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle driven by Lewis in Sharon, Pennsylvania.

17. Investigators with the Pennsylvania OAG and Pennsylvania State Police subsequently conducted an interview of Lewis. Lewis was read his *Miranda* warnings and was informed of the on-going drug investigation and the search warrant at his residence.

18. Lewis stated that there was approximately \$26,000.00 (the defendant currency) located in the safe at his residence. Lewis was informed that, at this point in the investigation, the money would be seized as drug proceeds. With reference to the money, Lewis stated "come on man, you know it's all going to be dirty".

19. During the interview, Lewis gave verbal consent to search the phones located on his (Lewis') person and inside his (Lewis') residence.

20. The Pennsylvania OAG investigator requested consent to search his vehicle. Lewis granted permission to do so, and a Crown Royale bag was retrieved from the center console. The bag was empty, but had "the emanating odor of cocaine". The Pennsylvania OAG

investigator asked Lewis if he used the Crown Royale bag to conceal drugs. Lewis stated that he did and that the bag had contained the cocaine [namely, a “ball” (3.5 grams of cocaine)] he recently sold to a female named [redacted] for \$200.00.

21. At approximately 8:10 p.m. on May 28, 2019, members of the DEA Youngstown Resident Office executed the federal search warrant at Lewis’ Raccoon Drive NE, Warren, Ohio residence. Among other things, the execution of the search warrant resulted in the seizure of the following items:

- a.) blue plastic baggie containing cocaine (lab analysis pending) residue. The item was seized from behind a dresser drawer in the master bedroom.
- b.) razor blade knife with cocaine (lab analysis pending) residue. The item was seized from a dresser drawer in the master bedroom.
- c.) digital scale with cocaine (lab analysis pending) residue. The item was seized from a dresser drawer in the master bedroom.
- d.) knotted plastic baggie containing powder cocaine (lab analysis pending), weighing approximately one gram. The item was seized from a dresser drawer in the master bedroom.
- e.) plastic baggie containing powder cocaine (lab analysis pending) residue. The item was seized from a drawer of a nightstand in the master bedroom.
- f.) the defendant \$26,000.00 U.S. Currency. The currency was seized from an (unlocked) safe, located on top of the armoire in the master bedroom. The currency was rubber-banded together in bundles.
- g.) the defendant 2010 Cadillac DTS. The vehicle was seized from the attached garage of the residence.
- h.) black cell phone belonging to Michael Lewis. The cell phone was seized from a nightstand in the master bedroom.

22. Thereafter, it was determined that the specific breakdown of the defendant \$26,000.00 U.S. Currency was as follows:

- 54 (\$100.00) bills

- 51 (\$50.00) bills
- 899 (\$20.00) bills
- 6 (\$10.00) bills, and
- 2 (\$5.00) bills.

23. \$20.00 bills frequently are used to conduct illegal drug transactions.

24. As alleged in paragraph 19, above, during the interview with the Pennsylvania OAG and Pennsylvania State Police, Lewis gave verbal consent to search the phone located inside his (Lewis') residence.

25. Photographs were taken of text message conversations obtained from Lewis' cell phone. The conversations are indicative of narcotics trafficking, and included the following examples:

a.) *Person texting with Lewis:* How much for a g

Lewis: 60

Person texting with Lewis: I need one I'm leaving my house in five minutes I live right off of East market so it won't take me long to get there

Person texting with Lewis: I'm on my way

b.) *Person texting with Lewis:* Ready

Lewis: 3 right

Person texting with Lewis: 2

Lewis: Ok

c.) *Person texting with Lewis:* Ready

Lewis: What this time

Person texting with Lewis: 2

Lewis: Done

d.) *Person texting with Lewis:* Quarter hard work. N a 50 for me soft

Lewis: Okay

e.) *Person texting with Lewis:* How much for everything

Lewis: 4

f.) *Lewis:* I might be able to a little later but right now I have to get here to sleep

Person texting with Lewis: OK. that would be great. we got 300. just let me know. thank you so much

Lewis: Ok

CONCLUSION

26. By reason of the foregoing, the defendant \$26,000.00 U.S. Currency is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 21 U.S.C. Section 881(a)(6) in that it constitutes proceeds traceable to illegal drug trafficking activities, and/or was used or was intended to be used in exchange for illegal controlled substances, and/or was used or was intended to be used to facilitate illegal drug trafficking activities.

27. By reason of the foregoing, the defendant 2010 Cadillac DTS, Ohio plate: HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719, is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 21 U.S.C. Section 881(a)(4) in that: (i) it was used to transport a controlled substance (crack cocaine); and/or, (ii) it was used, in any manner, to facilitate the transportation, sale, receipt, possession, or concealment of a controlled substance (crack cocaine).

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, the United States of America, respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment condemning the defendant properties and forfeiting them to the United States, and providing that the defendant properties be delivered into the custody of the United

States Marshals Service for disposition according to law, and for such other relief as this Court may deem proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin E. Herdman
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

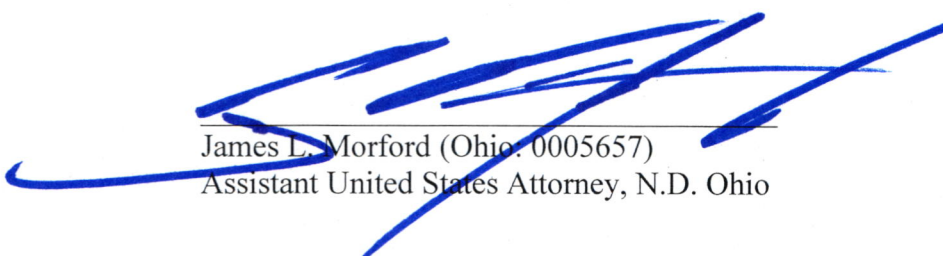
By: 

James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216.622.3743 / Fax: 216.522.7499
James.Morford@usdoj.gov

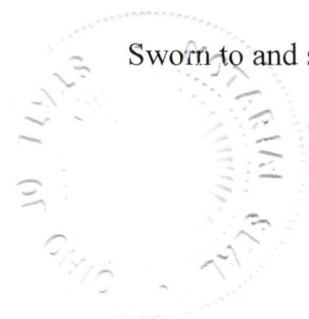
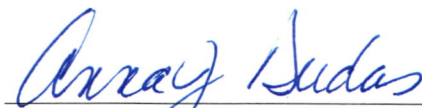
VERIFICATION

STATE OF OHIO)
) SS.
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA)

I, James L. Morford, under penalty of perjury, depose and say that I am an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and the attorney for the plaintiff in the within entitled action. The foregoing Complaint in Forfeiture is based upon information officially provided to me and, to my knowledge and belief, is true and correct.


James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 4th day of November, 2019.



Notary Public

Anna J. Dudas
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 12-5-2021

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

James L. Morford, Assistant U.S. Attorney - 400 U.S. Court House,
801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 - 216.622.3743

DEFENDANTS

\$26,000.00 U.S. Currency and 2010 Cadillac DTS, Ohio plate:
HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719, seized on May 28, 2019

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Trumbull County

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

Stanley T. Booker, Esq., 318 Highland Avenue, New Castle,
Pennsylvania 16101 - sbooker@stanleybookerlaw.com

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609				

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
- ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause:

civil forfeiture action under 21 U.S.C. Sections 881(a)(6) (currency) and 881(a)(4) (vehicle).

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:
☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE
11/04/2019

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

I. Civil Categories: (Please check one category only).

1. ☒ General Civil
2. ☐ Administrative Review/Social Security
3. ☐ Habeas Corpus Death Penalty

*If under Title 28, §2255, name the SENTENCING JUDGE: _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

II. **RELATED OR REFILED CASES.** See LR 3.1 which provides in pertinent part: "If an action is filed or removed to this Court and assigned to a District Judge after which it is discontinued, dismissed or remanded to a State court, and subsequently refiled, it shall be assigned to the same Judge who received the initial case assignment without regard for the place of holding court in which the case was refiled. Counsel or a party without counsel shall be responsible for bringing such cases to the attention of the Court by responding to the questions included on the Civil Cover Sheet."

This action is ☐ **RELATED** to another **PENDING** civil case. This action is ☐ **REFILED** pursuant to LR 3.1.

If applicable, please indicate on page 1 in section VIII, the name of the Judge and case number.

III. In accordance with Local Civil Rule 3.8, actions involving counties in the Eastern Division shall be filed at any of the divisional offices therein. Actions involving counties in the Western Division shall be filed at the Toledo office. For the purpose of determining the proper division, and for statistical reasons, the following information is requested.

ANSWER ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY. ANSWER PARAGRAPHS 1 THRU 3 IN ORDER. UPON FINDING WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO YOUR CASE, ANSWER IT AND STOP.

(1) **Resident defendant.** If the defendant resides in a county within this district, please set forth the name of such county

COUNTY:

Corporation For the purpose of answering the above, a corporation is deemed to be a resident of that county in which it has its principal place of business in that district.

(2) **Non-Resident defendant.** If no defendant is a resident of a county in this district, please set forth the county wherein the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred.

COUNTY: Trumbull County

(3) **Other Cases.** If no defendant is a resident of this district, or if the defendant is a corporation not having a principle place of business within the district, and the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred outside this district, please set forth the county of the plaintiff's residence.

COUNTY:

IV. The Counties in the Northern District of Ohio are divided into divisions as shown below. After the county is determined in Section III, please check the appropriate division.

EASTERN DIVISION

☐

☐

☒

AKRON
CLEVELAND
YOUNGSTOWN

(Counties: Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne)
(Counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Richland)
(Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull)

WESTERN DIVISION

☐

TOLEDO

(Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca VanWert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

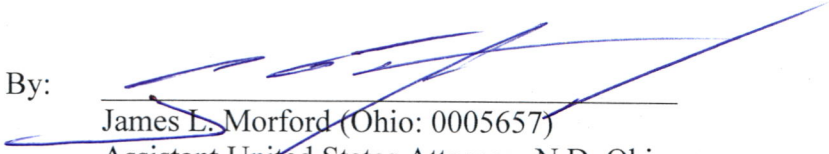
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO.
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	JUDGE
v.)	
)	
\$26,000.00 U.S. CURRENCY SEIZED)	
FROM MICHAEL LEWIS ON MAY 28,)	
2019, PURSUANT TO THE EXECUTION)	
OF A FEDERAL SEARCH WARRANT,)	
)	
2010 CADILLAC DTS, OHIO PLATE:)	
HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719,)	
SEIZED ON MAY 28, 2019, PURSUANT)	
TO THE EXECUTION OF A FEDERAL)	
SEARCH WARRANT,)	
)	
Defendants.)	PRAECIPE

The United States of America respectfully requests that the Clerk of this Court issue the attached Warrant of Arrest *in Rem* to the United States Marshals Service (USMS) pursuant to Rule G(3)(b)(i) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin E. Herdman
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:


James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216.622.3743 / James.Morford@usdoj.gov

United States District Court

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

WARRANT OF
ARREST *IN REM*

TO: THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL AND/OR ANY OTHER DULY AUTHORIZED LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2019 a Complaint in Forfeiture
was filed in this Court by Justin E. Herdman, United States Attorney for this District, on behalf of the United
States, against:

\$26,000.00 U.S. Currency seized from Michael Lewis on May 28, 2019 (CATS Asset ID No.: 19-DEA-
652386); and,

2010 Cadillac DTS, Ohio plate: HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719, seized on May 28, 2019
(CATS Asset ID No.: 19-DEA-652670);

and WHEREAS, the defendant properties are currently in the possession, custody, or control of the United
States; and,

WHEREAS, Rule G(3)(b)(i) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset
Forfeiture Actions directs the Clerk of the Court to issue a Warrant of Arrest *In Rem* for the arrest of the
defendant properties; and,

WHEREAS, Rule G(3)(c) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset
Forfeiture Actions provides that the Warrant of Arrest *In Rem* must be delivered to a person or organization
authorized to execute it;

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest the defendant properties by serving a copy of this warrant on the
custodian in whose possession, custody, or control the properties are presently found, and to use whatever means
may be appropriate to protect and maintain their custody until further order of this Court.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to file the same in this Court with your return thereon.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE AT

DATE

November 4, 2019

CLERK

(BY) DEPUTY CLERK

Returnable -60- days after issue.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

District

Date Received

Date Executed

Printed Name / Title

Signature

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Marshals Service

PROCESS RECEIPT AND RETURN

See *"Instructions for Service of Process by U.S. Marshal"*

PLAINTIFF United States of America	COURT CASE NUMBER
DEFENDANT \$26,000.00 U.S. Currency and 2010 Cadillac DTS, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719	TYPE OF PROCESS Warrant of Arrest in Rem
SERVE AT { NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, COMPANY, CORPORATION, ETC. TO SERVE OR DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY TO SEIZE OR CONDEMN \$26,000.00 U.S. Currency (CATS Asset ID No.: 19-DEA-652386) and 2010 Cadillac DTS, Ohio plate: HRV8926, ADDRESS (Street or RFD, Apartment No., City, State and ZIP Code) VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719 (CATS Asset ID No.: 19-DEA-652670)	

SEND NOTICE OF SERVICE COPY TO REQUESTER AT NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW	Number of process to be served with this Form 285	2
James L. Morford, Assistant U.S. Attorney Office of the United States Attorney, Northern District of Ohio 400 United States Court House, 801 West Superior Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44113 - 216.622.3743	Number of parties to be served in this case	2
	Check for service on U.S.A.	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT WILL ASSIST IN EXPEDITING SERVICE (*Include Business and Alternate Addresses, All Telephone Numbers, and Estimated Times Available for Service*):

Fold

Fold

\$26,000.00 U.S. Currency seized from Michael Lewis on May 28, 2019 (CATS Asset ID No.: 19-DEA-652386); and,

2010 Cadillac DTS, Ohio plate: HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719 (CATS Asset ID No.: 19-DEA-652670), seized on May 28, 2019.

Signature of Attorney other Originator requesting service on behalf of:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PLAINTIFF <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDANT	TELEPHONE NUMBER 216.622.3743	DATE 11/4/19
---	---	----------------------------------	-----------------

SPACE BELOW FOR USE OF U.S. MARSHAL ONLY-- DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

I acknowledge receipt for the total number of process indicated. (Sign only for USM 285 if more than one USM 285 is submitted)	Total Process _____	District of Origin No. _____	District to Serve No. _____	Signature of Authorized USMS Deputy or Clerk _____	Date _____
---	------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	---	---------------

I hereby certify and return that I ☐ have personally served, ☐ have legal evidence of service, ☐ have executed as shown in "Remarks", the process described on the individual, company, corporation, etc., at the address shown above on the on the individual, company, corporation, etc. shown at the address inserted below.

☐ I hereby certify and return that I am unable to locate the individual, company, corporation, etc. named above (*See remarks below*)

Name and title of individual served (<i>if not shown above</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> A person of suitable age and discretion then residing in defendant's usual place of abode
Address (<i>complete only different than shown above</i>)	Date _____ Time _____ <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm
	Signature of U.S. Marshal or Deputy _____

Service Fee	Total Mileage Charges including <i>endeavors</i>)	Forwarding Fee	Total Charges	Advance Deposits	Amount owed to U.S. Marshal* or (Amount of Refund*)
					\$0.00

REMARKS:

PRINT 5 COPIES:

1. CLERK OF THE COURT
2. USMS RECORD
3. NOTICE OF SERVICE
4. BILLING STATEMENT*: To be returned to the U.S. Marshal with payment, if any amount is owed. Please remit promptly payable to U.S. Marshal.
5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

PRIOR EDITIONS MAY BE USED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO.
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	JUDGE
v.)	
)	
\$26,000.00 U.S. CURRENCY SEIZED)	
FROM MICHAEL LEWIS ON MAY 28,)	
2019, PURSUANT TO THE EXECUTION)	
OF A FEDERAL SEARCH WARRANT,)	
)	
2010 CADILLAC DTS, OHIO PLATE:)	
HRV8926, VIN: 1G6KD5EY2AU133719,)	
SEIZED ON MAY 28, 2019, PURSUANT)	
TO THE EXECUTION OF A FEDERAL)	
SEARCH WARRANT,)	
)	
Defendants.)	NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

To: Michael Lewis
c/o Stanley T. Booker, Esq. - Attorney for Michael Lewis
318 Highland Avenue
New Castle, Pennsylvania 16101
sbooker@stanleybookerlaw.com

The above-captioned forfeiture action was filed in U.S. District Court on November 6, 2019. A copy of the Complaint in Forfeiture is attached. If you (Michael Lewis) claim an interest in the defendant properties, the following applies.

Pursuant to Rule G of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, you are required to file with the Court, and serve upon James L.

Morford, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is United States Attorney's Office, 400 United States Court House, 801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, a verified claim to the defendant properties within 35 days after your receipt of the complaint. The claim shall contain the information required by Supplemental Rule G(5). Additionally, you must file and serve an answer to the complaint, or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, within 20 days after the filing of the claim, exclusive of the date of filing. If you fail to do so, judgment will be taken for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Respectfully,

Justin E. Herdman
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:



James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216.622.3743 / Fax: 216.522.7499
James.Morford@usdoj.gov

Date: November 6, 2019